

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for joining components ~~(13)~~ for torque transmission in a vehicle ~~(17)~~ made from hardenable steel ~~(2)~~ and having a material thickness ~~(3)~~ by producing a weld seam ~~(1)~~ without secondary heating, comprising ~~at least the following steps:~~

- a) positioning a welding electrode ~~(4)~~ with respect to a weld line ~~(5)~~;
- b) applying a voltage;
- c) supplying a plasma gas ~~(6)~~;
- d) forming an arc ~~(7)~~; and
- e) melting the steel ~~(2)~~ in the vicinity of the weld line ~~(5)~~ over the entire material thickness ~~(3)~~.

3.-12. (cancelled)